



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Saturday, April 22, 2006 6 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence: Friday, April 21, 2006 9:30 p.m.
Nature of Event: Man Dies in Alta Home When Ground Collapses
Location of Call: Alta
Released by: Dena Erwin (530) 308-1384

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

An Alta man died when he fell into a hole that appeared suddenly inside his home Friday night. Geologists are attempting to determine what created the cavity under the rural home.

The 27-year-old man was at the home off of Drum Powerhouse Road around 9:30 p.m. when the house reportedly shook and a 10-foot wide hole appeared in the concrete foundation and the ground beneath.

He fell in and another family member called 911. Fire personnel were able to get to the man and determine that he was deceased, but the unstable structure and ground forced them to evacuate the home as the hole grew larger. The victim slipped further under debris and has not yet been recovered.

The Placer County Sheriff/Coroner's Office is not releasing the man's name until his identity can be verified.

Geologists are currently on scene and will be conducting tests to determine when it's safe for recovery personnel to enter the home. Placer County Sheriff and Coroner personnel are securing the residence. Other officials assisting are Placer County and state Office of Emergency Services, Alta Fire, CDF Fire, Sheriff's Search and Rescue teams and Placer County Building and Public Works personnel.